Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 03272 301254Z

46
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W
---------- 038805
R 300945Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5705

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 3272

E. O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: PINT, CE
SUBJECT: SLFP WINS MULKIRIGALA BY-ELECTION

REF: COLOMBO 2773

1. PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S RULING SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY (SLFP) WON BY-ELECTION AUGUST 27 TO RETAIN NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY SEAT VACATED BY DEATH OF GEORGE RAJAPAKSE, MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND HEALTH. VICTOR IN JULKIRIGALA CONSTITURNCY WAS LAKSHMAN RAJAPAKSE,GEORGE'S BROTHER, WHO WON WITH 52.9 PERCENT OF VOTE COMPARED TO UNITED NATIONAL PARTY (UNP) CHALLENGER T.D. FRANCISKU'S 45.1 PERCENT. TWO INDEPENDENTS TOGETHER GLEANED ONLY 2 PERCENT OF VOTE.

2. BOTH PARTIES HAD COPAIGNED VIGOROUSLY IN MULKIRIGALA AND THE SLFP HAD PUT ON A SPECIAL PUSH AFTER THE END OF THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. VOTER INTEREST WAS DEMONSTRATED BY HIGH 89.7 PERCENT TURNOUT. SLFP IS TRADITIONALLY STRONG IN THIS SOUTHER AREA BUT THE UNP HAD HOPED THAT THE VOTER TREND REFLECTED IN PREVIOUS BY-ELECTION S (NAME UNP VICTORIES IN ELEVEN BY-ELECTIONS SINCE 1970) WOULD CONTINUE. SLFP MARGIN IN THIS ELECTION (4,001) WAS SOME 2,000LESS THAN IN 1970 DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF 11,000 NEW VOTERS ON THE ROLLS.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 COLOMB 03272 301254Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

3. PRESENCE OF TWO INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES ON BALLOT THIS TIME SOMEWHAT COMPLICATES COMPARISION WITH 1970 ELECTION. SLFP PERCENTAGE OF VOTE DROPPED 4.7 PERCENT FROM 57. 6 PERCENT IN 1970 WHILE UNP INCREASE WAS ONLY 2.7 PERCENT, THE BALANCE GOING TO THE INDEPENDENTS, BOTH OF WHOM WERE RELATED TO THE SLFP CANDIDATE AND PRESUMABLY TOOK SOME VOTES THAT WOULD NORMALLY ACCRUE TO RAJAPAKSE FAMILY CANDIDATE. FAMILY SPLIT IS EXEMPLIFIED BY SUPPORT OF LATE GEORGE RAJAPAKSE'S MOTHER FOR SLFP CANDIDATE WHILE GEORGE'S WIFE CAMPAIGNED FOR YOUNGER BROTHER NEIL RAJAPAKSE WHO, LIKE THE OTHER INDEPENDENT, FORFEITED HIS ELECTION DEPOSIT FOR FAILURE TO WIN REQUIRED MINIMUM OF VOTES.

COMMENT: ONE CONSOLATION THE UNP DRAWS FROM THIS DEFEAT, BESIDES ITS INCREASED SHARE OF VOTE, IS PROSPECT THAT THIS RESULT WILL STRENGTHEN PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO DISSOLVE THE NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY (CONSTITUTIONALLY REQUIRED BY MAY 22, 1977) AND HOLD GENERAL ELECTIONS SOON AFTERWARD. SOME UNP'ERS HAD EXPRESSED FEAR THAT, IF MRS. BANDARANAIKE FOUND SHE COULD NOT WIN EVEN SLFP STRONGHOLD OF MULKIRIGALA,SHE MIGHT FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF THOSE IN HER PARTY WHO ARE URGING HER TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS.
REED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTH, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB03272
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760329-0444
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976088/aaaaagfv.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COLOMBO 2773
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SLFP WINS MULKIRIGALA BY-ELECTION
TAGS: PINT, CE, (RAJAPAKSE, LAKSHMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006